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AN
ACCOUNT
OF
THE ISLAND OF
J A M A I C A;
WITH

Reflections on the Treatment, Occupation,
and Provisions of the Slaves.

TO WHICH IS ADDED
A DESCRIPTION

OF
The Animal and Vegetable Productions of
the Island.

By A GENTLEMAN LATELY RESIDENT ON A PLANTATION.

NEWCASTLE:

PRINTED FOR THE AUTHOR BY S. HODGSON,

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TO THE

BRITISH MUSEUM

WITH

Reflections on the Treatment of the Slaves
and the Condition of the Colonies

TO WHICH IS ADDED

W. D. 10. W.



The Annual and
the Islands

BY A GENTLEMAN, RESIDENT ON A PLANTATION.

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Advertisement.

THE abolition of slavery being now a favourite national topic, an account of the treatment and use of the slaves in Jamaica may not be unacceptable to the public. The observations contained in the succeeding pages were made during nearly a twelvemonth's residence on a large estate of the Honourable Mr Ward, called Rhimesbury, in the parish of Clarendon, Jamaica.

Prefixed is a general account of the island, with some particulars respecting the manners and customs of the inhabitants; also a description of a dreadful hurricane which happened in the night of the 31st of July, 1784.

From the whole a reader may perhaps form some idea how far a general emancipation of the slaves may tend to their increase, civilization, and morality, as well as to the benefit of their employers.

That the negroes are stubborn, untractable, artful, revengeful, naturally indolent, and much addicted to thieving, must be allowed; yet can it be a matter of surprize, when we consider their cruel treatment, and the irresistible calls of unsatisfied nature to which they are exposed, particularly during the dry seasons in the savannahs?

ADVERTISEMENT.

Insurrections of the slaves were formerly frequent; they were disappointed in the last, owing to a misunderstanding with respect to the appointed day, when numbers of them were sacrificed by way of example. They have lately confined their outrages to firing the towns for the sake of plunder. To repel any future attempts the headbeads of the Europeans are all armed with musquets, pistols, and cutlasses. The domestic slaves are the most dangerous, having greater opportunities than the field negroes, and not having such a dread of white men. It is to be hoped that, should they be liberated, or Christianity inculcated and established amongst them, their understandings may be wonderfully enlightened, their disposition to rebellion repressed, and principles of honesty and attachment to their employers made fixed and permanent. Every humane and thinking person must surely wish to see the African slave-trade abolished; good treatment, a sufficient allowance of provision, and a small remission of their labour, may render them fully competent to keep up the number on the plantations. That gentle methods may be adopted is the sincere wish of

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AN ACCOUNT OF
The Island of Jamaica, &c.

JAMAICA is certainly as fine an island as any in the West-Indies, and the largest in possession of the English, who became masters of it during Cromwell's usurpation, by means of a fleet and armament intended for the reduction of Hispaniola, which attempt they failed in; but the Spaniards, from whom this island was taken, will ever have reason to lament its loss. It is remarkably well cultivated, much healthier than formerly, and having of late years been greatly cleared of wood, the sea breezes have consequently freer admission into the interior parts.

The island is about 160 miles in length from east to west, and in breadth at different parts 40 or 50 miles; it is narrowest about the middle; in latitude 17. 18. and 19. north, in the 75th and 79th deg. west longitude, and nearly 4080 miles south-west of London. A chain of mountains runs from east to west, with lesser mountains below

low gradually decreasing : The Blue Mountains, which overhang Kingston and the extensive savannah or plain, on the southern edge of which it stands, are immensely high ; the top of the highest has never been explored, from a supposition that the air is too subtile for human inhabitants. Blue Mountain summit is a mile and 2099 feet in perpendicular height from the level of the sea, which is 907 feet higher than the most elevated point of the Pyrenees. Catharine Hill is above 2099 feet high. The larger mountains are very rocky, and here and there are covered with moss. The lofty trees, in great variety, grow out of the crannies, which are innumerable ; from whence, and the almost constant rains and mists, they receive their support ; thence also many fine rivers derive their source. Nature has indeed been lavish of her power in these variegated regions : Immense and irregular piles rising one above another seem to realise the poetic fiction of Pelion on Ossa, and the stupendous chasms they exhibit are wildly and wonderfully pleasing. By a seeming approximation of objects, from these eminences, at eight miles distance, the town of Kingston, with the whole of the savannah may be so distinctly seen beneath, that even passengers in the streets may be descried with a glass. The
opposite

opposite town of Port-Royal the harbour, the shipping between, and the vessels out at sea, terminate the view, which is beautifully contrasted throughout. The air is often thirty degrees colder in the mountains than in the plains; in the former our own country's productions are frequently raised, such as pease, strawberries, and potatoes; and in their gardens are some of our most delicate flowers. Such too is the difference in the temperature of the air, that whilst in the mountains they use blankets on their beds, a sheet in the savannahs is often more than a sufficient covering. It is by no means matter of surprise, that, from the intense heat in the plains, the inhabitants are subject to fevers and other distempers. Invalids are frequently removed into the mountains, where they recover very fast, but as often relapse on their return.

A governor is appointed at home, whose salary in time of peace is stated to be 5,000l. yearly; but in case of war it is often more, according to incident and disposition. He is aided by a council of twelve, and forty-three representatives chosen by the parishes. The militia, including freemen and maroon negroes, amount to about 12,000; but the white men are all called to arms in time of war. The maroon negroes are the descen-

dents of those who preserved their liberty by retiring into the most inaccessible parts of the mountains, where they have a few poor settlements: Their leader is generally called Chinckee Joe. The merchants of Kingston are well disciplined and accoutred, amount to about 1200, and are mustered on the shortest notice.

The island is divided into three counties, Surry, Middlesex, and Cornwall; which are subdivided into twenty parishes, St Catharine's, St Dorothy's, St John's, St Thomas in the Vale, Clarendon Vere, St Mary's, St Ann's, Kingston, St Andrew's, Port Royal, St David's, St Thomas in the East, Portland, St George's, St Elizabeth's, Westmorland, Hanover, St James's, and Trelawney; these contain about 200,000 inhabitants, 174,000 of which are reckoned to be slaves.

The wind in this part of the world, out at sea, blows constantly from the same points of the compass, except in hurricanes, which are not very dangerous at a distance from land. The sea breeze blows the ships into the harbours on both sides of the island, and a central wind called the land breeze drives them out; the tide seldom rises above a foot and an half, and strong currents often set against the sea breeze.

In

In the parish of St Catharine is Jago de la Vega, or Spanish Town, the capital of the island, though Kingston is the sea-port. It is but a small town, mostly built of wood; has a neat church, of which Dr Lindsay is the present rector; is the residence of the governor, whose house, a stately fabric of stone, with the courts of law and public offices, form a handsome square. On the south-west side of the town runs a rapid river called Rio de Cobre. Here the merchants always clear out. The inhabitants live luxuriously, and look upon those of Kingston as courtiers do upon citizens.

Port-Royal was formerly the principal sea-port town, running west about twelve miles from the body of the island, having the ocean on the south and a fine bay on the north, which forms a very commodious harbour, three leagues broad, and of depth enough for a ship of 700 tons to lie close to the shore, well defended by forts and platforms of guns. It formerly contained 1500 houses, was very populous, and much frequented by merchants and planters. But this fine port was three times destroyed within three years, in 1692 by an earthquake, in 1702 by a fire, and in 1722 by an inundation of the sea. In the terrible earthquake of 1692 a remarkable circumstance happened

ed to one of his majesty's vessels, the Swan frigate, lying at anchor there; by an almost instantaneous shock she was hurried over the place where the houses were just before standing, and received no damage, which was the providential means of saving many of the miserable inhabitants from drowning.

The town of Kingston is regularly built, street behind street (mostly of wood) to a considerable extent, being about a mile in length, and half a mile in breadth, intersected by other streets in a parallel line, the whole forming a kind of square; the savannah, on the edge of which the town stands, is bounded in a semicircle by the Blue Mountains to the east, north, and nearly to the west. The lower streets adjoin the wharfyards and harbour, and consist of merchants stores and shops of all kinds; they are very convenient, and let at high rents. In the north part of the town is a neat church with a low spire; and nearly adjoining is a spacious parade, with barracks for soldiers. There is also a theatre, assembly-rooms, and other places of public amusement.

The merchants, from their pens in the country, or the higher part of the town, go down to their stores or shops in kittereens (single horse chairs) about seven in the morning. Having breakfasted, they generally

rally get a second breakfast at eleven, and dine at four or five, when all business is ended for the day, and the stores shut; the remainder of the evening they spend as inclination leads. Many resort for an hour or two to the coffee-house, where they drink weak punch acidulated with lime-juice; and if no public diversion is going forward, retire to bed at eight or nine, after having supped upon tea. The Jamaica coffee-house is situated at the lower part of the town, where a book is kept, and news of the arrival and going out of ships is inserted in writing, with any thing particular that occurs.

Of the Europeans the Scotch are most numerous, as well in Kingston as all over the island. London, Portsmouth, Plymouth, Bristol, Liverpool, and Lancaster, send most of the English who reside here. There are also a great number of Jews, who, as they do in all other places, contrive to undersell every body else.

The brown people, or mulattoes, quadroons, and mestees, increase every day; some of them have large property, and carry on an inferior kind of trade. These, and many of the free negroes, especially the women, keep lodging-houses and taverns; the beds for strangers are six shillings

lings and eight-pence, or a dollar for every single night. It is the custom of many merchants, on leaving the island, to emancipate several of their slaves.

The brown men are never received into the company of white people, who scarce condescend to speak to them; but, on the contrary, are very free with the females, who are remarkably quick and lively; with these they hold a dancing assembly, which is generally much more crowded than the first assembly composed of Creole white ladies of the best families in the island, who in general are very haughty: These never appear on foot in the streets; but are, when out, in chaises, fulkies, or kittercens.

Except a few excellent houses which have lately been built of brick, and two or three of stone, after the English fashion, by rich merchants, the houses are in general of wood, very often mahogany, which is plentiful in this island: They consist but of a room or two below stairs, with piazzas all round, and a story above: The inhabitants sit much in the piazzas in the evening to enjoy the breeze. The domestic slaves are very often kept as mistresses; and when confidence is placed in them, are exceedingly faithful and useful in overlooking the others in their master's absence.

The

The three classes mentioned before are produced by the following connexions:— From the mixture of perfect black and perfect white comes a mulattoe: This set retain the woolly hair of the negroes. The quadroons proceed from a white man and mulattoe woman; and these have the long European hair in general. The next order (mestees) arise from a communication between a white man and quadroon woman; and the offspring of a mestee woman with a white man are a perfect white, and free by the laws of the island.—The slaves never eat with the white people.

The days are not less than twelve, nor more than fourteen hours in length; The pleasantest time for taking the air is a little before sun-rise, and half an hour after it: the evenings are very close and hot; but the clouds in general exhibit the most beautiful imagery; at the dawning of the day the majestic columns and glowing tints they display exceed all description; and after sun-set the mild lightnings are seen playing in a variety of directions upon the tops of the lofty mountains; whilst the night-flies, grasshoppers, and crickets, make so great a buzzing, as very much to alarm a stranger, who cannot account for the unusual noise; as well as the fire-flies, which, containing a

C

natural

natural phosphorus, appear like so many sparks wherever their luminous bodies are wandering. There is scarcely any twilight here: It is about these times the insects begin and end their depredations; particularly the musquitoes, which are very troublesome, especially to Englishmen who bring with them a roast-beef habit, and are of sanguine complexions.

The town stands low, is populous, and very unwholesome: It is well supplied with water, there being many public pumps. The ships water is got at a place called Rock-Fort, about two miles up the harbour, and is reckoned very fresh and good. In general, near the sea the springs are brackish. Many of the principal merchants have delightful pens up the Blue Mountains, or in the savannah, which are extensive; and at the foot of them, a little off the road to Spanish Town, and about two miles to the west of Kingston, is a place called Greenwich, where there is a pen called the admiral's pen. The house, erected for the use of the commander in chief of his majesty's ships of war on that station, is very large and commodious, and a handsome object in many points of view. At these pens or country-houses, and on the land adjoining, they breed plenty of hogs, sheep,

sheep, goats, and poultry: Great quantities of vegetables and fruits of various kinds, with ground and bread-fruit, which will be hereafter described; and these, with what the negroes bring from the mountains, liberally furnish the markets of Kingston.

The merchants generally keep clerks who sleep at the stores, the salaries of whom are usually 100*l.* sterling, or 140*l.* currency. Kingston being often visited by sickness, and attendance and medicines high charged, many young men prefer the plantations in the country to living in town; though, if they stay any considerable time, they are often taken into partnership as a reward for their services.

About the center of Kingston are the courts of law, which are roomy and convenient. Causes are carried on as with us; but no robes or gowns are worn. There are laws peculiar to the island, which are bound up in one volume. The sessions are regularly kept throughout the island; and they have the benefit of appeal to England. No person is allowed to leave Jamaica till he has publicly advertised his intention to quit it three months before, that he may not defraud his creditors; and no

captain of a ship must take such person on board.

Sunday being a day of rest, it is astonishing to see the number of kittereens and other carriages on the roads: The stores are all shut; and even the slaves are allowed to recreate themselves. It is the negroes' market day; they bring all sorts of fruit for sale in great abundance, and by their chearful looks one would imagine them the happiest creatures breathing. In the afternoon they walk out in swarms; the wenches in gowns white as snow, white hats, and a handkerchief of the same colour over their woolly heads. The gowns are made like negligees; and being most of them very tall, and always preserving an upright posture, they appear to great advantage. Some are of a jet black, extremely well made, have beautiful features, lively piercing eyes, and teeth like ivory. They commonly end the day with dancing, the manner of which will be described hereafter.

The merchants in general live well. Turtle, and various other kinds of fish, are very plentiful. They kill no calves for veal, giving the preference to animal food of riper age. Of this the price is never less than one bit per pound, which is equal to sixpence sterling. They usually kill their own
mutton,

mutton, which is either fat to an extreme or very lean, according to the wetness or dryness of the season. When meat is very scarce, they have recourse to salt beef, pork, herrings, and cheese; the common price of the latter is two bits per pound, as is also that of butter. These and flour are sent from home; with ale, porter, cyder, wine, and many other articles. The negroes live chiefly upon fresh and dried fish, yams, sweet potatoes, cassava, plantains, cocoas, bananas, Indian corn roasted, Guinea corn made into cakes, pease and beans of various kinds, which the climate affords in abundance. They use great quantities of red peppers in most of their messes, and are very fond of the plant called oco. Coffee is also very plentiful, and grows chiefly in the mountains.

On the 30th of July, 1784, a violent hurricane visited this island. It began about eight in the evening, without any previous alarm. The family with whom I then staid had just retired to bed, without any apprehension of the approaching calamity. My host had been twenty-five years acquainted with the island, and had experienced many dreadful hurricanes and fires, by which he had been several times nearly stript of his all. Never did I see consternation more strongly

strongly painted in a human face than when he informed me a hurricane was beginning. I rose in haste, and we united our efforts in barricading and fastening the doors and windows by every method we could devise. At that moment a loud crash saluted our ears. We ran out, and beheld the negro-houses laid even with the ground. The wretched inhabitants had been prudent enough to retire to the fields, except one who gave us all the assistance in his power. The gale became exceedingly furious, and such a conflict of elements I never saw before. The clouds rolled along in thick and murky volumes, the rain poured in torrents, whilst the terrible yelling of the wind beggared all description. We were covered as with a deluge of rain and sand; branches of trees were darted through the air; and loud and frequent was the noise of falling buildings. In this stage of the hurricane we went to the stable and released the poor horses, every joint of them trembling, as partakers in the common horror. We had scarcely entered the house, and with the assistance of the negro secured the door, when a furious blast from the east carried away the gable end and part of the roof to the distance of forty yards, where we found them the next morning. The gale seemed
now

now to be at its height, and we sat down in the hall, the strongest room of the house, waiting the event. The wind soon began to decrease, and totally subsided by eleven o'clock.

The return of day brought to view a scene perfectly distressing: Bodies of great weight and magnitude were moved out of their places; cannon were dismounted, walls and pillars of brick thrown down, large trees torn up by the roots, the ground deeply furrowed in many places, whole streets of houses laid open, and the negroes according to custom were pillaging whatever they could lay hands on, even from one another, saying, "God Almighty had thrown open the doors and windows for them."

But the most dismal and shocking prospect was the harbour; out of a great number of vessels, only two men of war had been able to ride out the storm, and even these not without the loss of all their masts. The merchantmen were all sunk, or cast high and dry on shore. Many keels of ships were seen just rising above the surface of the water, whilst a number of poor sailors were clinging to the tops of masts of others; where they had remained all night; and were displaying handkerchiefs as signals of distress: Negroes were immediately sent off
to

to save them. Fortunately the canes, being low, did not suffer much; but great damage was done to the mills and houses on the plantations. The storm had been as destructive in the mountains as in the savannahs, and much damage was done to the ground-fruit and bread-fruit. In consequence of this dreadful visitation, provisions immediately rose to an exorbitant price; a great scarcity was dreaded by every one, but that evil was happily averted by the arrival of several ships.

RHIMESBURY, an estate situate in the parish of Clarendon, at the foot of Carpenter's Mountains, bounded on the north-west by Milk River, and on the south-east by the parish of Vere; it is above six miles in breadth, and rather more in length; has been cut out from the midst of the wood, by which it is now surrounded; and lies forty miles west of Kingston.

The great house or pen was formerly large and straggling, but it has lately been rebuilt and made very commodious; it consists of a suite of rooms raised upon piazzas, with a large dining-room in the center, all floored with mahogany; there are also galleries above, covered with handsome Venetian blinds on every side, which render them cool and agreeable; two rooms below are occupied

occupied by the overseer of the pen. The attorney or superintendent, when he visits the plantation, resides here; it is about half a mile from the sugar-works. There are good out-offices, stables, and an excellent garden; the pastures adjoining are planted with sweet and sour orange, lemon, lime, and other trees; the blossoms of green and yellow fruit are seen at the same time, are beautiful to the eye, and grateful to the smell. Large pastures extend to a considerable distance, on which there are often a thousand head of cattle in charge of the overseer, a vast quantity of swine, poultry of all kinds, and flocks of sheep and goats, which are all numbered at set times, to prevent their being stolen by the negroes, who have been known to convey an ox into the woods, and devour him when roasted. The number of the pen negroes is about 150, who are employed in clearing the pastures, raising corn, and often to assist in loading the merchantmen.

The sugar-works are to the south of the pen; and consist of the mill for grinding canes, the boiling-house, cooling-house, and still-house: Near these are several stores, and the overseer's house, which is a slight erection of wood; consisting of a hall and four bed-chambers,—one for himself, and

ther for travellers, and one for each book-keeper. There are also two other rooms nearly adjoining for the carpenter and plumber. A surgeon from a neighbouring plantation visited this occasionally; though they are in general fixed with a stated salary.

The hot-house for the sick and runaway negroes is near-hand; in which are stocks where the delinquents lay for a considerable time, night and day, and are flogged regularly every Monday morning at the discretion of the overseer, or rather at his will: For sometimes they use no discretion, as was the case on this estate, and I fear on too many others.

The negro-houses lay at a very small distance between the pen and sugar-works: They are miserable hovels indeed; but they content the poor inhabitants, who are wonderfully chearful considering their situation and treatment. They are allowed to keep hogs and poultry; but if their hogs break into the cane-pieces, they are shot by command of the overseer. They have likewise an acre of ground each; and are allowed two days in a week out of crop-time to till it, Sunday being one. Whilst the crop is getting in (which generally lasts four or five months) Sunday is their only day; but
though

though at this time they are (if possible) harder worked, they seem to enjoy it much: They sing day and night, and grow very fat; this change in the midst of extreme labour seems to arise from their continually sucking the raw juice of the canes, which is of a very rich and nutritious quality. They frequently in the wet seasons raise more ground-fruit, bread-fruit, and vegetables, as well as poultry, than they can use: The superfluity they sell; and will sometimes take turkeys to Spanish Town and Kingston markets, (the latter place being forty miles distant) beginning their journey on Saturday night after their work, and returning before daylight on Monday morning to renew their labour. In the dry seasons flour and herrings, Guinea corn, or Indian corn, are delivered out to them, with a small portion of which they contrive to live; perhaps they owe their good spirits chiefly to vegetable diet, which indeed is proper enough in so hot a climate. But before I proceed to give a further account of them, I shall speak of the salaries and employment of the white people.

The attorney (already mentioned) is the chief manager of the plantations; he is paid by the owner, who appoints him at home according to agreement: His business is to

see that every thing is in order and properly conducted; and if any complaints are made by the negroes, the remedy lies in him: But they too often have a multiplicity of business in various places to attend sufficiently to their great charge; and the overseers, who are often illiterate and vulgar, take advantage in their absence to tyrannize over those in their power, who dare not complain. It would be a good regulation to confine the attorneys more to their plantations, which would increase their number, and be the means of keeping the estates in better order; they should also in some measure be answerable for the treatment of the negroes and other slaves.

The overseer acts under the direction of the attorney, so far as relates to the management of the plantation; his stated salary in general is 100*l.* sterling, or 140*l.* currency. The entire ordering of the under-overseers or book-keepers (of which there are commonly two) is his province, as is also their dismissal in case of ill behaviour or non-performance of orders; he has charge of all the stock and stores, and the provisions are distributed to the negroes at his discretion, as is also their cloathing, which for the men consists of Russia duck for frocks and trowsers; a hat for the women,
linsey-

linsey-woolsey for petticoats, and Russia duck for frocks, which is all they wear. It is his business also to order each particular day's work, to take a daily account of the negroes, and what business they are employed in, to visit the sick in the hot-house, and to ride over the whole of the plantation; he likewise orders the punishment of delinquents. He appoints the brown women for taking care of the house, washing the linen, and cooking; and the boys (of which there are usually five or six) for waiting upon the white people; he also orders the provisions for their table, and is in every respect the master of the house; he is to take care of travellers, to give them a bed, to entertain them, and provide for their horses; this is the custom upon all plantations, as there are few inns or taverns on the road. They are never charged any thing for subsistence. He is to take care that the sugars and rum are sent down to the wharfs, and that the hogsheds and puncheons are in good order and full when they are put on board the ships; which business he generally leaves to a book-keeper, as he ought never to be long absent from the plantation, the good quality of the sugar and rum chiefly depending on his skill and attention, though more upon that of
the

the negro boilers and distillers, who in general are the most experienced slaves upon the estate. He ought to keep a constant correspondence with the attorney.

The under-overseers or book-keepers are young men from home, who are engaged at 40l. per annum currency. As two of them are usually kept on each plantation, they take it in turns to go to the field with the negroes, or to stay at home with the keys of the stores, which are constantly wanted: In crop-time, one usually attends the boiling-house, where the sugar is made; the other the still-house. During the getting in of the crop, they only rest six hours out of the twenty-four, for on Sunday evenings the mill is set to work at five or six o'clock. The rest of the year they rise at day-break; breakfast at seven with the overseer upon herb tea or coffee, when half an hour is allowed; they come home at twelve, and a conch-shell is blown to call the negroes to dinner, who in less than an hour are to go out again at the blowing of the like shell, and are immediately followed by one of the book-keepers, who again attends them till after sun-set; soon after which they sup, and retire to bed when they please.

The person who keeps the keys counts
over

over the small stock every morning, and delivers in a list, which is afterwards entered in a book.

An account of the white people, number of negroes, and great stock upon the plantation and pen, is sent by the respective overseers, signed and sworn to by themselves or the head book-keeper, every quarter, to a person appointed by a general assembly of the island for each parish. On the estate were 250 slaves: An hundred head of oxen fed in the pastures, which were used in preference to horses or mules for the wains and waggons; a dozen of them are sometimes yoked in pairs, and four wainmen and as many boys are appointed out of the negroes to take care of them. In these carriages they will convey eight hogshheads of sugar to the wharfs at a time, though after a very wet season they are often obliged to leave them sticking in the mire. About 150 horses and mules are kept for the use of the estate, chiefly for the mill, and a few of them for riding, when occasion requires a white man's attendance at a distance.

Those that can afford to purchase horses are allowed to keep them on the plantation, and they sometimes gain considerably by buying and selling them; they usually purchase them young, and break them. If
they

they are able to buy negroes, they may let them out at two bits (fifteen-pence) per day or upwards; and if tradesmen, for a great deal more. The carpenters, plumbers, and bricklayers, generally make fortunes, as the hurricanes so frequently blow down the mills and other buildings.

When the small stock upon the plantation are in a poor state and not fit to kill, (which is often the case in very dry seasons) and the ground-fruit and bread-fruit scarce, they have recourse to the provisions sent from home, such as beef, pork, herrings, and flour; so that the planters in general live well, as fish is often sent them twice a-week.

A good garden adjoins the house, containing a variety of vegetables, such as pease and beans of many kinds, sweet potatoes, cassada, peppers, pine-apples, pumpkins, cucumbers, and the favourite vegetable called ocro. This plant grows as high, and something like, the holly-oak; it blows a yellow flower, that leaves behind a head about the size of a short thick cucumber; when full grown, the surface is furrowed. It ought to be pulled when the head is young and small. They are best and most tender when the size of a large walnut; if older, they are stringy, and the seed is red; many heads are upon one stalk. It is a ve-

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ry glutinous pulp, and the chief ingredient in a dish called pepper-pot; red pepper, and a little salt beef, are boiled with it till the soup becomes rich.

All the gardens abound with pine-apples; the different sorts of which are mentioned under ananas, in the description of plants at the end of this account.

The mill for grinding canes stands in the center of all the buildings, and is of a curious construction; the roof is of an octagonal form, small at the top, and very wide at the bottom; in the center is placed the main roller, which is often made of the cabbage tree, (hereafter described) so hard a wood that a musquet ball will scarcely make any impression. Gogs are placed so as to turn those of two other rollers; the negroes put the canes between the rollers, and the juice is expressed into a vat beneath, from whence it runs by a lead gutter, raised upon posts to a proper height, into the first cistern in the boiling-house; shafts are fastened to the rollers, and extend to a platform, which forms a circle to the mill, and to which the horses or mules are yoked, and which are relieved by fresh ones every four hours; the negro boys sit upon the shafts, drive the mules round with little whips in a continued trot, and sing day and

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night.

night. On some plantations they have water-mills.

The boiling-house is near the mill, in which are seven coppers, decreasing in size after the two first, which are called *St Hild's coppers*; the mouths of the furnaces are on the outside, each furnace having particular negroes to watch it; as also the coppers, where they toss about the liquor with long ladles, calling to the negroes on the outside to increase or slacken the heat as occasion requires. The smallest and last copper is called the *teach*, which has a remarkably hot fire kept under it. After a very little lime mixed with water has been thrown into it, the syrup begins to form a grain upon the ladles, which is thrown off into wood coolers, where having staid some time, it is carried to hogheads placed in an adjoining building, (the cooling-house). Holes are made in the hogheads with plantain suckers stuck through, from whence the molasses drain into a cistern like the hold of a ship, the hogheads standing upon beams about a foot from each other. This process is called *potting the sugar*. The book-keeper who attends the boiling-house, takes an account of the number of times the teach is thrown off; and from the quantity of sugar they can judge of the goodness of the canes.

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The molasses are preserved as an ingredient for making rum; the skimmings of the cane juice and the refuse of the two first coppers, called *dunder*, are carried by lead gutters to the still-house.

The still-house, at a small distance from the last, is a large building, having a rum store to the east, the windows of which are Venetian blinds. It contains ten deep square cisterns of wood, sunk in clay hard beat down, where the ingredients for making the rum are put, which ferment together for nine or ten days. The raised furnaces, upon which the still-heads are placed, are on the outside of the house, communicating with the worms on the inside, which are covered with water in a reservoir or tank, supplied, as often as occasion requires, by a breeze-mill of such a construction that it is set a-going by one man: It has sails like ours in England, and the water is thrown up by pipes into the tank, as well as various parts of the boiling-house. A great many pumps are used in the still-house, some of them portable; and so much lead and copper work is required in and about these houses, that the plumber and his gang of negroes have employment enough.

The ingredients having fermented and

settled in the cisterns, the still-heads are filled. The first time it goes through the worms it is called *low-wine*; the next distillation it comes out rum; and as long as the liquor will sink oil, it is put up in puncheons for use; the rest is returned to the low-wine butt, which stands close by, to be distilled again. A new method of proving rum was introduced this year, (1784) by glass bubbles filled with different quantities of air, every one so marked, that, by their sinking or swimming, the strength of the rum is ascertained.

I arrived about the middle of August upon the plantation, the time when the Guinea corn had not been long planted; this was done on large plots of ground; and the expected rains not falling, vast pains were used in *renewing the corn*, as it is called, after the following method: Having sprung in tufts here and there, they took up a number of stalks with the roots, and cutting off the long tops, they transplanted them, making holes at the distance of a foot from each other, placing two roots in different directions in each hole, and covering them with soil; they repeat this renewal several times when there are no rains; but if it is wet weather soon after, the whole field looks green and lively in twenty-four hours.

After

After this we were employed in planting canes where they had missed springing after the last crop; ours were mostly *rattoons*, a term given to those that have been planted several years, and, being cut down, spring again of themselves; the savannahs generally produce them; in the mountains they usually plant them anew every year. Our method was to take stalks of canes and split them between knot and knot, placing two pieces at equal distances, in a contrary direction, in the deep furrows made with the negroes' hoes; these furrows or cane-holes are remarkably strait and exact, being set out by a line and sticks put down at proper places. This business took up a considerable time.

Some of the canes being higher than the rest, require weeding; each negro taking his row, which is extended to a great distance. In this business they are accompanied by a book-keeper and negro-driver; the last of whom has a long whip, with which he gives them a cut when they are lazy. The overseer visits them three or four times a-day. When the canes are high it is a very disagreeable office to follow the negroes; in the morning on account of the heavy dews, and afterwards from the excessive suffocating heat; and even

even when the sea-breeze springs up, the height of the canes prevents in a great measure its refreshing effects. Add to these evils that of broiling under a vertical sun, the teasing of myriads of ants, and the disagreeable stench from the perspiration of the negroes.

The intense heat, with the fatigue of getting through the canes, often cause new comers to faint; the negroes, being in their native climate, take no harm; but they are sometimes afflicted with a contagious disorder called the *yaws*, which is believed to be of the venereal kind, and most filthy, as they are covered all over with a sort of crust, and their legs are particularly bad; they are sent to the sea-side when they have this complaint, being totally unfit for work. The chegoe, or gigger, often renders them sad objects; but if these get to any head, it is generally from want of care.

The gigger is at first a small worm, which gets imperceptibly under the skin, (chiefly of the feet, and sometimes to the joints of the knees and elbows) where having formed itself a nest, it lays eggs, and grows to the size of a pea in a short time. As soon as the place begins to itch, it is usual to search it with a penknife not very sharp, taking care to turn it out whole, that none of the eggs be

be let out to remain under the skin, for they would produce fresh giggers, and at length ruin the patient; the parts affected are often rubbed with tar.

It is frequently necessary to clear the pastures of the underwood, which grows very fast in the wet season, and this is done with bills and sharp cutlasses. The fences are kept remarkably neat and regular; they grow like our hawthorn, but much higher; and when tall, the blacks strip the branches three parts down, and interweave them in an ingenious manner.

The method of making lime here is worthy of observation. They chuse a brook-side, where are limestones and plenty of wood at hand; the negroes are divided into two gangs, the greater and smaller in general, but now they are ordered to unite; and I dare say it is a great entertainment to them, for the boys and girls are dispatched with baskets to get stones, branches, and leaves of underwood; the men fell trees, and chop them in pieces. A flat piece of ground is chosen by the overseer in a proper place, and two or three rows of thick pieces of wood form the foundation of a circular pile; branches and leaves are strewed above these, then a layer of limestones, and so on alternately, tapering to the top, and leaving here
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and there a piece of wood jutting out by way of ladder to mount the pile, which is often raised pretty high; it is then set fire to. This employed all the negroes a fortnight; the mending of some roads, a laborious piece of work, another.

There are two excellent wharfs belonging to Rhimesbury, called the old and new; the former is about nine miles off, and is situated at the sea-side, near the mouth of Milk River; the latter part of the road is through a thick wood, which is often impassable for the wains and waggons, particularly after a hurricane, and in time of rain it is belly-deep for horses. The new wharf is six miles up the river, and close to it Mr Smith the attorney has built a most excellent storehouse for the rum and sugar, and a crane of such contrivance, as, with the strength of one man, to hoist an hoghead of sugar into the store, a considerable height. The stores are carried down the river, which is deep and narrow, in a large boat called a *bungay*, made out of the cotton-tree, and capable of carrying five or six hogheads: As these trees are sometimes eighty feet high, the boats are made long and narrow, suitable to the river, which, if navigable further up the country, the advantage to this part of Jamaica would be considerable, as they often delay sending
their

their sugars in the rainy season on account of the depth of the roads, which hurts their market.

At Christmas the slaves are allowed three days holiday, during which time they are quite at liberty, and have herrings, flour, and rum. The prime negroes and mulattoes pay a visit to the white people during the festivity, and are treated with punch; one of them attends with a fiddle, and the men dress in the English mode, with cocked hats, cloth coats, silk stockings, white waistcoats, Holland shirts, and pumps. They dance minuets with the mulattoe and other brown women, imitating the motion and steps of the English, but with a degree of affectation that renders the whole truly laughable and ridiculous. When the holidays are over, without the least appearance of fatigue from their extraordinary exertions night and day, they chearfully return to their work. Every Saturday night many divert themselves with dancing and singing, which they stile plays; and, notwithstanding their week's labour, continue this violent exercise all night. But their own way of dancing is droll indeed; they put themselves into strange postures, and shake their hips and great breasts to such a degree, that it is impossible to refrain from laughing,

though they go through the whole performance with profound gravity, their feet beating time remarkably quick; two of them generally dance together, and sometimes do not move six inches from the same place. After the interment of a corpse, they always dance and sing dolefully; but there is no knowing what they say on these occasions. They used formerly to have no other instrument than a bow with two or three wires, which they struck with a stick, making a noise strangely dissonant and uncouth.

After Christmas, the canes are most of them high, and require continual weeding with hoes; soon after, some of them begin to look yellow, a proof of the approach of crop-time, when every one begins to be busy in preparation.

I had once occasion to attend the gang of coopers, to reckon the staves for the hog-heads and puncheons they had been cutting some time before in the woods; but it was a most disagreeable jaunt, and took us up four days. We were upon our legs from before sun-rise till after sun-set, with very little intermission. In the mornings the dews fell heavily upon us; and the under-wood being at that time uncommonly high, the road was rendered so intricate that the negroes were under the necessity of clearing them

them with sharp cutlasses; nor should we have known where the staves lay, but for the boughs of trees which the negroes had formed into an arch near them. After a little time we were almost baked in the hot sun, and the woods were closed in such a manner that we received no benefit from the sea-breeze when it sprung up; this, together with the sight of black and yellow snakes, (some of the latter twenty feet long) a multitude of scorpions, rats, and ants, under the staves: the quantities of wasps nests, (these insects being of a very large kind, and their stings fraught with a virulent venom) in the many lime-trees which we past, made the expedition not only disagreeable and wearisome, but horrible and dangerous.

One of the negroes was so stung in the face by a single wasp, that he was a frightful object for two or three days; and it was a fortunate circumstance that the whole body of them did not attack him at once.

On the 4th of February we began to cut canes, and took upon us our different charges; the negroes were appointed to their stations, some to the boiling-house, others to the mill, and others again to the still-house, which last were divided into separate watches, and the mill was kept going night and day. A great majority were cutting canes in the

field ; the wainmen and boys were busy leading ; and every one, in short, was in continual motion. The canes, after the juice was expressed, were dried in the yard, and became good trash for the furnaces, which were also supplied from large piles of wood ; the green tops of the canes are cut off before, and serve as excellent provender for the cattle and horses ; the offals and refuse of every thing make the hogs exceedingly fat.

All the time the negroes are busy with the crop, they make so much noise in singing that they may be heard a great way off ; and from that circumstance, added to their dusky hue, they have no small resemblance, in the eye of a stranger, to a swarm of bees. As I have before mentioned the process of making sugar and rum, I will now endeavour to give an account of the planting the great or Indian corn, which takes up about a week in the wet month of April, when the rains are sometimes so heavy, that they are obliged to leave off grinding canes for that time.

The large fields are generally square, and contain a great many different cane-pieces, between each of which a space is left for Guinea-grass and Scotch-grass, the former remarkably succulent and luxuriant, and an
 excellent

excellent food for the stock ; they are both of infinite use, as they grow when the native grass is burnt up and exhausted, particularly the Guinea-grass, which is most in esteem, though very lately introduced upon the island : Some have planted it with such success near the towns, that it has yielded them vast profit.

The great corn is planted between each row of canes, which, having been cut, are at that time low. The negroes plant the grain in slight furrows made with their hoes, not profusely, but after the manner of our beans in gardens ; the ground being moist, it soon appears above the surface, and in the beginning of June a large crop is reaped, without harming the canes in the least. The grain is inclosed in a large husk, which is pulled off with the hand, as are also the heads of the Guinea-corn, which is reaped a little before Christmas. The great corn is chiefly eat by the negroes, who are fond of it roasted ; it is frequently given to horses, especially in towns. The Guinea-corn, when ground, makes tolerable cakes, which are almost as thin as a wafer. The heads unthrashed are given to the hogs.

The canes were all cut, and the crop ended by the 4th of June, just before I left the island ;

island; and they were busy sending the sugars and rum aboard the different ships.

I shall now make some observations on the abilities and dispositions of the negroes and other slaves as they appeared to me: The men amongst the blacks are mostly active and very strong; I have known one of them carry a white man, who has not been able to walk, for a mile and upwards on his back, without once setting him down or being at all fatigued. Many of them are tall and well made, but their legs are often faulty in shape; they ride well, and some of them in the towns play the backsword with great adroitness; in general they are very cunning and given to tricking, do not seem fond of their wives, but still are jealous of them; they understand flattery as well as most people, and are of themselves indolent and nasty. The brown men are not so strong or capable of work, and are more thievish if possible than the negroes; some of them are very good looking, and of a large size.

The women are a good deal like the men, but still more artful; very fond of Europeans, and will do any thing for them. The black only go to the field; the brown women are generally kept by the white men, except now and then a favourite negro, which

which some few prefer. I have said before that they can be faithful; they are very fond of their children, and though the white men go to a distant part of the island and desert them, they still observe the same unremitted care and attention to their offspring. Their shifts are of the finest Holland, when the liberality of their keepers will allow it; and this they pride themselves most in. Some of them are really handsome, and with the addition of a white or chintz gown and petticoat and white hat, look very neat: In common, they are fond of red and blue calamanco for petticoats; coral necklaces and gold ear-rings please them much. In their persons they are remarkably clean, bathing twice a-day.

I cannot omit mentioning the good effects of inoculation on this estate: Thirty children, adult, Creole, and Guinea negroes, took the infection, and got well through; out of that number only one child died; the rest were sick but a very short time, and thinly marked. A physician and surgeon attended, who received at the rate of 2s. 6d. per head for each. The child that died belonged to a mulatto woman, and no parent in the universe could be more affected; she fell out of one fit into another, and for a long time was inconsolable.

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The women are remarkably jealous of each other, and carry that passion to the greatest excess. They sometimes do much mischief by administering poisons, of which they have various kinds in the island, some of them very subtle and lingering in their effects. The general name with the negroes for these poisons is *obea*, which is frequently given to one another upon any slight cause; they do it in secret, and keep it so, nor is the person who administers it often found out. One poor black wench, called *Juno*, was suspected of having taken some from a merry, stout, hard-working girl; she of a sudden grew downcast, suffered almost a total loss of appetite, and continued thus without any visible decay or alteration for five months; before I left the island, the negroes said "somebody had given her *obea*."

The negro-women are not prolific, owing perhaps to climate, constitution, poor living, and hard work; or probably to all the circumstances united. We had about a dozen New Guinea negroes brought on the plantation in the course of ten months; they seemed low-spirited, perhaps from the voyage, which is generally fatal to great numbers, and those who survived having experienced the severest usage and confinement, it is no wonder they were dejected and did
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not thrive well at first; but they soon grew sprightly, and went through the inoculation and small-pox without suffering much.

The overseer used to punish the slaves for trivial faults, and that very severely; after ordering them three or four dozen lashes with a long whip (which is always performed by the negro-driver with great dexterity) over the buttocks, whilst smarting with pain, he used to give them the further discipline of *ebonics*, which is something like our birch with short prickles; the poor creatures are always stretched upon the ground, one holding each limb. I am sorry to say they do not seem to feel for each other.

There are churches in every parish of this island; yet, except in the towns, I fear they are little frequented but on that awful occasion the burial of the dead. The planters seem to have no religion at all, attending to nothing but the means of attaining superfluous wealth, at the expense of both the health of body and soul; and it cannot be a matter of wonder that those who are constantly inflicting punishment on their fellow-creatures, should be deaf to every call of the mild voice of Christianity. Should a planter begin his career with any of the finer feelings of the soul, continued

habits of cruelty soon entirely destroy them. Where, alas! is that charity that "suffers long and is kind?" Art thou, O divine emblem of all goodness, fled the earth? In what dark corner of the universe dost thou hide thyself from the hardened sons of men? Dispel once more with thy glorious light the mist that is around us; point out to us the necessity of brotherly love; and give us the supreme felicity of enlarging the minds of those of our fellow-creatures now lost in barbarism and ignorance, that this present age and ages yet to come may sing and leap for joy at the knowledge of a Saviour, who will wipe the tears from every eye, and bestow upon us and them unspeakable joys which will last for evermore.

Before I quit this melancholy subject entirely, I must observe that the attorney of the plantation was not privy to the excessive punishment inflicted on the slaves by the overseer whom I left upon it in June 1785; I spare his name in hopes he may see his error, but make this distinction because a very different person acted in that capacity when I first went into the employ.

If a general emancipation of the slaves should not be effected, ought we to be less liberal than the French and Spaniards, who have

have planted Christianity in their islands, are by no means so severe in their discipline, and yet have experienced no bad effects from either? A great many faults committed by the slaves must be imputed to their ignorance. I remember a black severely punished on board a ship on the following occasion: Finding a pair of shoes lying about the waist, he took and converted them to his own use, which being made known to the captain, he was ordered to be flogged, for in such a confined place it was easy to ascertain whose property they were, and, if this matter had been overlooked, it would have been a bad example to the ship's crew; the negro all the time of his punishment cried out, *Massa me no teewee, me takee.*

I shall conclude with remarking, that fortunes are not now so easily acquired as formerly in the island of Jamaica. The increase of white people of late years has been immense, though many who go from this country are carried off in a week's time, by the fever and flux, to which they are subject on their arrival; these are often got by imprudence, in excess of eating, drinking, or exercise, under a hot sun, and being exposed to the dews at night and the land-breeze, which, though it seems to come as a friend, often proves a fatal enemy. No-

thing is more destructive, particularly to our soldiers and seamen, than new rum. The fruits are wholesome, when eaten moderately; but too great a liberty taken with them, brings on the flux, a disorder much alleviated by the use of pomegranates. Bilious fevers are very common, for which bitters steeped in Madeira wine or old rum are given as a remedy; but in all fevers the healthy air of the mountains generally restores the patient, though much exhausted.

Property is here exceedingly precarious. I have before observed that fires are particularly dangerous, in country as well as town; if a cane-piece once takes hold, there is no knowing where it will end, particularly if there is a strong breeze. Earthquakes are frequent, (though I only felt one whilst on the island) and sometimes very dangerous, especially near the sea. The hurricanes are tremendous visitations, and generally do much mischief. The lightning is oft-times awful and vivid beyond description; the heats are intense, exhaust the vital powers, and consequently shorten life. Many merchants come home emaciated every five years, and return quite renovated; yet what will not the thirst of gain tempt people to endure?

I would not by what I have said insinuate

ate that all who reside in the West-Indies are avariciously inclined; there are many worthy exceptions, many liberal and conscientious men, estimable citizens of the world, and ornaments to the commercial line. But vice, fraud, and cruelty, have ranged with frequent and ample steps unpunished in those islands. I shall only add, that those are wise who know their own good, and the excellence of the constitution and climate of Great-Britain, which receives the produce of the most distant regions into her abundant stores.

OF THE QUADRUPEDS.

C L A S S I.

THE horses of the savannah breed are rather low and delicate, run very well in chaises and kittereens, are tolerably fleet, and pleasant for the road. Horse-racing has been lately introduced in the island, the rage for which is now so surprisngly great, that the Creoles are sometimes attended on the turf by negro boys with heavy bags of dollars, and large sums are betted. The mules of this island are tall and well made, and answer for the mills better than the horses. A good proof ass will sell for 100l. currency.

The oxen are remarkably large and strong, long-horned, and much used for draught; on some plantations they are yoked to the mills. The beeves are in vast quantities all over the island, are very fine and large, and sell to the butchers, who go to all quarters for them, at about 10l. a-head. The cows do

do not give more than a pint or a quart of milk a-day; butter has been made, but it is poor stuff. The sheep in many parts are large, often extremely fat or lean; if sent from home, they lose their wool, which degenerates into hair; and it is wonderful to observe how the climate changes them. In England, their thick woolly coats defend them from the severity of the winter, and afterwards afford a covering for mankind; whereas in Jamaica they have no occasion for such warmth, having a much more cool and suitable cloathing, and become in a short time party-coloured.—In this hot country are no subterranean mines of coal, the woods affording fuel sufficient for the wants of the inhabitants.

The goats thrive exceedingly in all parts, and are large; the flesh of the young is excellent meat, and, with a little salted pork, makes good mock-turtle. The milk of the goat is very sweet and good. Hogs are numerous, and of the middle size; they thrive best in crop-time, and become exceedingly fat by eating the offals of the sugar and cane tops; at other times they feed chiefly on Guinea-corn. The boars are very fierce, and sometimes gore one another to death.

When Columbus first discovered the West-Indian islands, none of the animals here mentioned

mentioned had ever been seen by the natives, but were brought from the old world by the Spaniards.

CLASS II.—OF BIRDS.

THE carrion-crow is of the size of a full-grown turkey, soars to a vast height, and is of such use in devouring dead carcases in and near the towns, that five pounds penalty is levied on any person who kills one of them. They are the means of preventing many distempers which might otherwise arise from nauseous smells and infected air.

The pelican is a very large sea-fowl, being sixty inches in length from the point of his bill to the end of his tail, and nearly equal in bigness to a swan; the colour of the whole body is white; and a bag hangs down from his bill, which he sometimes contracts and draws up in such a manner that it is scarce visible; at other times it is so dilated, as to contain many gallons of water. They fly in a right line at equal distances, generally direct their course where
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there is plenty of fish, and afford the gentry much diversion in shooting them.

The Guinea fowls are in vast plenty; they fly by flocks in a line, and walk or run in the same order to the number of eighty or a hundred. This bird is well known in England.

Turtle-doves are very common and in much esteem, as is also the ground-dove, a beautiful little bird, that runs before passengers at the distance of ten or twelve yards; the body is not much bigger than that of a lark, is thought very delicate eating, and makes a most excellent soup.

The partridge was brought here many years since, is wonderfully increased in number, but degenerated in size, being not much bigger than a quail, by which name it is generally known. It affords no great diversion in shooting, nor do the dogs employed in the pursuit possess that admirable scent peculiar to more temperate climates. In the rainy seasons, are plenty of teals, and some wild-ducks.

The most common birds are the black parroquets, which make a very disagreeable noise, and pick up the new-sown corn. They are as big as our magpies, and have bills like parrots. The negroes say, the black parroquets are good for *yam*, i. e. good

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to eat; they are often knocked down with flicks.

The birds of song are few in number, at the head of which may be placed the American mock-bird, generally called the nightingale. Many birds of the most beautiful plumage, with tufts of feathers on their heads, are found in the woods. The humming-birds are met with here, one kind of which is very diminutive, quite common, and sucks the flowers upon the wing. They are shot with sand. A number of owls of various kinds inhabit the woods, some of them very large, and beautifully diversified.

CLASS III.—OF FISHES AND AMPHIBIOUS PRODUCTIONS.

UPON the banks and in the rivers of this island are found those dreadful monsters the alligators, which have been so often described, that it is needless for me to say more of them than, that I have known them seize young children, sheep, and goats; and many have been fired at
with

with slugs and bullets, without being hindered from carrying off their prey.

The sharks are very numerous, particularly in the bays and harbours, where many persons have been devoured by them; some of the negroes are so expert in swimming and diving, and so little afraid of them, that they will attack and stab them in the belly with knives.

The sea produces baraceutas, (which are excellent when they do not feed upon copperas rocks) albicores, and dolphins. The shoals of flying fish are numberless; and it is very entertaining to observe the pursuits of the dolphins, which leap a considerable height out of the water after them. The change of colour in the dolphin when dying is too quick and wonderful to describe with precision.

Of the turtles or sea-tortoises, there are four different sorts; the trunk-turtle, the loggerhead, the hawk-bill, and the green-turtle. The trunk-turtle is rank and unwholesome, larger than any other sort, and has a higher and rounder back; the loggerhead is little better; the hawk-bill is of a purgative nature, but it produces the real tortoise-shell, which is so justly admired. The green-turtle is that which proves so agreeable to the palate when dressed with

proper ingredients, but they are three parts wasted in the voyage to England; it is only at Jamaica they are to be had in perfection; their general rendezvous is at the Grand Caymanes, which lies between Jamaica and Cuba, and where the ships generally take in their supply of them. The largest are about 250lb. weight; but those of about 50lb. or 60lb. are reckoned the best. It is said they are nine days in the act of generation, produce more eggs than any other of the oviparous tribe, and will come many hundred leagues to the Grand Caymanes to lay them.

There is also a land-turtle in this island, which is not bad eating; and also land-crabs, which the negroes sometimes eat, but they are filthy looking things, and generally feed upon carrion. They burrow like rabbits, in the ground.

The rivers abound with excellent fish. Snappers, about the size of our large roaches, but flatter, are very common; mullets, which are much about the same size, with a more bluff head, are very delicate; calapavers, about the size of a middling jack, are innumerable, but hard to strike; they are very delicious stewed in their fat; but the Jew-fish is reckoned the greatest

greatest delicacy, though I never saw any of them.

An extraordinary and much-esteemed fish of exquisite taste and flavour, called the mountain-mullet, is found in the holes and cavities of rocks where the rain-water is left.

CLASS IV.—OF INSECTS AND REPTILES.

THE yellow snakes are generally met with in the woods, and sometimes extend to the length of ten yards or more; the middle part of them is black and yellow, speckled, and as thick as a man's thigh; they carry their heads erect, about a yard from the ground, are very ugly, and covered with filthy slime. As they trail along their unwieldy length upon the ground they may be observed without danger, nodding their heads backward and forward, and so slow in their motions, that a person may easily chop them into many parts. Like eels, they will live a long time after being thus severed. The negroes say they
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take their prey when sleeping, and will strangle the largest ox, by first winding themselves about a tree (where in fact they may be often seen) and then about its neck, and after the beast is dead they suck the blood.

The black snakes are about a yard long, and small, very quick, and much in the grass. I never knew them do any mischief, and they are a great enemy to the lizard tribe.

The scorpions chiefly frequent old wood, and often lurk in shoes that are laid by; the bite is very venomous. Their figure has been often described, and some authors are of opinion the poison lays in the sting.

The centipede, an inhabitant of old wood, is also very dangerous, and has its name from the number of legs it possesses; they are something like an insect we have in England, but much larger, are often preserved in spirits of wine, and brought home.

The lizards are of many different kinds; the species which dart along the ground in a zigzag way, and make a rattling noise, are of a very disgusting appearance, of a brown and yellow colour, speckled like snakes; these do great harm by nipping the young buds of corn, they are not otherwise hurtful

ful to mankind, do not change their colour, have four feet (as all other lizards have), their head is like that of a fish, and they have a long tail tapering to the point. Strangers are much alarmed by the rustling noise they make, particularly near the penguin fences. It is very diverting to see the black snake seize the lizard, round which he twists himself, and darts his tongue into his prey, which lays as if dead, and when the snake begins to slacken, the wily victim suddenly darts from the circle in which he is inclosed, and is chased into some hole by the snake, from which he seldom escapes.

There are other lizards which go much about the houses, and some which abide chiefly upon trees; the former change colour as you look on them, and from a deep black will become a charming blue; they have lively little eyes, and feed chiefly upon flies and ants. Another and a less species take the colour of old laths, and seem incrustated by the wood; in this state they lie for their prey, and readily take it. Some are of a bright brown, spotted with yellow, and are frequently blowing out their red gullets. Those that are seen on trees are of a beautiful green, and are quite harmless and familiar. When one of them is killed, the ants (of which there are myriads of many different

different kinds) run off with the body in an hour or two. The brown lizard has a very loathsome and disagreeable appearance, is of a more ugly shape than any I have mentioned, and is streaked with yellow. I have heard of some dangerous lizards, but never saw any.

The ants are very troublesome about the houses, particularly the large brown ant, the black ant, and the small sugar ant; they spoil the provisions and every thing they can get to, are very disagreeable in the cane-pieces, and bite the feet and legs of the people employed. They build their nests in the woods, upon the branches of trees, to the size of an anchor, which the negroes often get, as the eggs are esteemed good food for the poultry.

The mosquitoes (insects so much spoken of, and so troublesome in the hot countries) make a buzzing noise, are bigger than a gnat, and are armed with a proboscis, which they dart into the flesh with such violence as sometimes to occasion a fever; they are most hurtful to new-comers of roast-beef habits. At night the inhabitants guard their beds with mosquito nets, which are in general made of checked muslin or something fine, so as to prevent these insects from finding access through them; they are contrived
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to fall down all at once, and reach to the floor on every side; the insects are brushed out before bed-time; fumigation is however the only thing that drives them out entirely, and of this the remedy is almost as bad as the disease.

The crickets, locusts, and grasshoppers, are numerous and large, and make an uncommon noise at night.

A very destructive and disagreeable insect called the cock-roach, frequents the houses; they live chiefly in chinks and crannies, but get amongst cloaths and destroy them fast; there are innumerable multitudes of them, and when killed they stink abominably.

Of the papilionaceous tribe the number and variety are exceedingly great. Some of them are troublesome, but have a rooted enemy in an insect about the size of a bat, called the musquitoe-hawk.

As the cochineal is a native of the West-Indies and South America, though not common in Jamaica, I have here subjoined an extract from the ingenious Abbé Raynal's account of that curious and valuable insect.

“ The cochineal is an insect of the size and form of a bug; the two sexes are distinct, as in most other animals. The female fixed upon a point of the plant almost from the first instant of its birth, remains
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always attached to it by a kind of trunk, and presents to the eye only an hemispherical crust, which covers all the other parts; this covering is changed twice in twenty-five days, and is sprinkled over with a white and thick dust, which is immiscible with water. At this period, which is that of puberty, the male, which is much smaller and more slightly made, issues out of a farinaceous tube, by means of wings, with which it is provided; he flutters over the immoveable females, and fixes upon each of them. The same female is thus visited by several males, who perish soon after fecundation. The bulk of the female visibly enlarges till a drop of liquid, which escapes from under her, shews that the eggs, which are in great number, will soon make their appearance. The little insects burst their covering at the time of their birth, and soon spread themselves over the plant to choose a favourable spot to fix upon.

“The shrub, which is called by the name of nopal or Indian fig, is about five feet high; its stem is fleshy, large, flattened, downy, a little rough, and covered with clusters of thorns regularly disposed upon its surface; it branches out very much, and grows narrow, as well as its branches, at every point of ramification; this gives to
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the portion of the plant thus made narrow the form of an oval, thick, and thorny leaf; it has no other leaves but these. Its flowers, scattered over the young stems, are composed of a scaly calix, which supports several petals and stamina. The pistil, surmounted with a single style, and concealed at the bottom of the calix, grows along with it into a fruit fit for eating; it resembles a fig, and is full of seeds fixed in a kind of reddish pulp.—There are several species of nopal; those which have a smooth stem, with a number of thorns placed too close to each other, are not fit for the breeding of the cochineal. These insects thrive well on that sort which have but few thorns, and a downy surface proper to give them a firmer footing. Wind and cold rain, as well as too much damp, are injurious to the plant. The mode of lopping the trees is not advantageous; it is better to replant it every six years, by putting several pieces of the stems into cavities of some depth disposed in a quincunx or a square, at the distance of six or eight feet from each other. A spot thus planted, and distinguished by the name of nopalry, is usually no more than two or three acres in extent. The cultivator should take care to rid them of the caterpillar.—Eighteen months after the plantation,

the nopal is covered with cochineals; but in order to distribute them more regularly over the whole plant, and to prevent them from injuring each other from their proximity, small nests, made of the outside rind of the cocoa, and filled with twelve or fifteen females ready to lay their eggs, are fixed to spines at certain distances; the little ones which come out, fix themselves on the nopal, and attain to their utmost growth in two months, which is the limited duration of their life. They are then gathered; and this operation is continued every two months, from October till May. The crop may be less valuable if it should be mixed with another kind of cochineal of a lower price, or if there be a great quantity of males, which are in little estimation, because they are less, and that they fall off before the time. This crop is to be gathered some days before the laying of the eggs, either to prevent the loss of the eggs, which are rich in colour, or to hinder the little ones from fixing on a plant which is already exhausted, and must be left to itself for a few months. Beginning then by the bottom of the plant, the cochineals are successively detached with a knife, and are made to fall into a basin placed underneath, one of the edges of which being flattened, adapts
itself

itself exactly to the plant, which is afterwards cleaned with the same knife or with a cloth.

“Immediately before the rainy season comes on, in order to prevent the total destruction of the cochineals, which might be occasioned by the unwholesomeness of the air, the branches of the nopal, loaded with infant insects, are cut off; these branches are laid up in the houses, where they maintain their freshness as all mucilaginous plants do. Here the cochineals thrive in the bad season. As soon as that is passed, they are placed on the trees, where the vivifying spirit of the air soon makes them propagate.

“The wild cochineal, a different species from the fine or mesteque cochineal we have been speaking of, but cultivated in the same places and on the same plant, does not require as much care and precaution; it is a more hardy insect, and bears the injuries of the air better: The crop of it is consequently less variable in the produce, and may be gathered all the year. This insect differs from the other inasmuch as it is more voracious, less abounding in colour, and enveloped in a kind of cotton, which it extends two lines all round it. This species multiplies more readily, spreads farther and faster,

faster, without any assistance, so that a nopally is soon covered with them. As its produce is more certain, as its price is equivalent to two-thirds of that of the finer sort, and as it propagates upon all species of nopals, it may be cultivated with success, but separately, because if it were placed near the other, it would starve it, and the other might also be smothered under the down. This species is also found in Peru, upon a very prickly nopal, which is very common there.

“ As soon as the cochineals are gathered, they are plunged in hot water to kill them. There are different ways of drying them: The best is to expose them to the sun for several days, by which means they acquire a red brown colour, which the Spaniards call *renegrida*; the second method is to put them in an oven, where they assume a greyish colour streaked with veins of purple, which hath given them the name of *jaspeada*; but the most imperfect, which is what the Indians most generally practise, consists in putting them on plates along with their cakes of maize, in which process they are frequently burnt, and are called *negra*. Though the cochineal be classed in the animal kingdom, the species of all others the most likely to corrupt, yet it never spoils:
Without

Without any other care than that of merely keeping it in a box, it hath been preserved in all its virtue for ages.

“ This valuable production would probably proceed in different parts of Mexico, but hitherto scarce any, beside the province of Oaxaca, hath seriously attended to it. The crops are more plentiful on a barren than on a fertile soil, and have experienced less accidents in an agreeably mild exposure than where the heat and cold were more sensibly felt.”

O F

TREES AND PLANTS.

THE PLANTAIN TREE.

THE fruit of this tree is the principal and most esteemed bread-fruit; it is about the thickness of a man's wrist, inclosed in a husk, and is about five inches long; many grow in clusters round the pedicle. Before it is ripe, it is either boiled or baked at the fire, and has a mealy taste; but when ripe, it is very delicious, and, fresh from the tree, eats like a pear, but of a more pleasing flavour. It loves to be near water, in hollow ground, and rises to the height of ten or twelve feet; the leaves are about seven feet long, a foot and an half broad, of a fine green colour, and are frequently used for dressing blisters; the stem bears fruit only once, but sprouts are continually shooting from amongst the roots of the stem, and these bear fruit in a twelvemonth. It is not a native of the island, but was carried thither from the Canaries. Something like a cross appears on the fruit.

The

The Pawpaw Tree, if it may be called a tree, has a spreading root, grows to twenty-five feet in height; its trunk is green, thick, tender, and succulent, and though often of the thickness of a man's thigh, it may be cut down with a knife at one stroke. The leaves stand on long pedicles, at the top forming a very beautiful head; they are two feet or more in breadth, and are deeply divided into five or seven segments; they are of a deep green on the upper, but of a paler on the under side; the flowers are yellow, moderately large, and hang in clusters. The fruit is large, and, when ripe, yellow.

The Pistachio Tree grows to a considerable size; the trunk is thick, and covered with a brown cracked bark; the branches are numerous and spreading; the male flowers are arranged into loose catkins; the female are very small, and are succeeded by the pistachio nuts; the leaves are pinnated on each side the fibre, with an odd one at the end.

Of the Indian Corn the root is fibrous; the plant grows to eight or ten feet high; the stalk is an inch or more in diameter, erect, robust, and succulent; the leaves are very numerous, two feet or more in length, of a bright grassy green, narrow, and pointed at the extremities; the seeds are yellow

in the inside, of a very large husk, about the size of a horse-bean, and stick close together in many rows to a soft substance about four inches long, and half as thick as a man's wrist; the seeds are rubbed off, and the negroes parch and eat them. Amongst this corn I have often observed a weed about three feet high, with a flower very like the passion-flower.

Cashaw Tree, or Virginia Thorn, grows to twenty feet high, is ramous, the leaves divided deep in many places, something like those of our hawthorn; the fruit is of the size of a small nut, and of a fine scarlet colour; the branches are armed with very long, sharp, and robust thorns.

The Pomegranate Tree has a large root; the form of the plant is naturally that of a shrub, but here it may be called a small tree; the branches and twigs are long and slender, armed with spines; the leaves stand without order, are oblong, moderately broad, and of a dark green; the flowers grow from the sides of the branches, are large, and of a fine deep red colour; the fruit is bigger than an orange, round, and covered with a hard green rind; within, it is formed into nine cells; the seeds are numerous, roundish, and red when ripe; a membrane divides every cell of the fruit into two parts.—The Pomegranate

granate is of an astringent nature, and the best remedy for fluxes, which are very common in this island and all parts of the West-Indies.

The Silver Tree, the root of which is long and brachiata, grows to twenty feet high, its trunk is straight and regular, its branches long, its bark is of a pale grey, and variegated with spots of a bright silver-white; the leaves stand in pairs, are smooth, thin, and of a greenish yellow, an inch long, and near as broad at the base, whence they gradually diminish to a point; they are undivided at the edges, and have scarce any pedicles; the flowers are small, whitish, and grow at the *axæ* of the leaves. It is a native of this island; Sir Hans Sloane calls it, *Myrtifolia arbor cortice argenteo, flore pallide albicante*.

Of the American Aloe, the root is very large, oblong, crooked, and as it were jointed; the leaves are five feet long, six inches broad near the base, and two or three inches thick; they are hollowed, and of a bluish green colour; the extremity terminates in a robust brown spine of two inches long, and the edges are beset with spines of the same kind, only smaller, and bent downwards; the stalk is round, as thick as a man's thigh, and sometimes twenty feet high;

the upper part of this stalk forms a spike of flowers six feet or more in length; the flowers are yellow, and stand in clusters on pedicles, growing gradually shorter in a regular and beautiful manner, towards the top like a pyramid.

Of the Coffee Tree, the root is composed of a number of long, not very thick, ramifications; the stem is round, two or three inches thick when well grown, and the tree ten, twelve, or fourteen high; it sends out branches from near the bottom, and thence all the way to the top; these stand two together on the opposite sides of the trunk; they are while young very flexible, and covered with a whitish bark, but as they grow older this becomes of the same brown colour with that of the trunk. The leaves stand two at a joint; they are in shape much like the common bay leaf, but larger, thinner, softer, and of a paler green colour; they stand on short pedicles, are four or five inches long, and two inches wide, broadish at the middle, narrow at the base, and terminate in a very long narrow point; they are somewhat undulated, are of a pale green colour on the upper side, and whitish underneath. The flowers stand in little clusters, four or five together, in the *axæ* of the leaves; they have a short pedicle, and
are

are white or a little reddish, moderately large, and of a sweet smell; the berries are green at first, afterwards red, and when full ripe, black; they are of the bigness of a large currant-berry; they are pulled when red, and being dried and the outside taken off the white seed, which we see white before it is roasted, afterwards of a dark brown, is ground into powder, from whence our coffee.

Of the Spanish Woodbine, the root is tuberous, roundish, and of the bigness of a man's head; the stalk is angular, firm, and tortuous; it winds itself about trees, and grows thus to twenty feet high, is very much branched, and of a brownish colour. The leaves stand singly at four inches distance from one another, with pedicles of two inches or more in length; the leaf is divided into seven oblong segments, is narrowest at the base, broader in the middle, and thence smaller again to the point; the middle segment is four inches long, and an inch broad, the others are gradually smaller as they recede from it; the flowers are large, of a bright yellow, very beautiful, and sweet scented; they stand singly on pedicles of three or four inches long arising from the leaves; it is a native of the island.

The

The Contrayerva Plant, which is of singular efficacy in various fevers incident to this island, acting as a fine sudorific, and an excellent stomachic when infused in Madeira or old rum, deserves particular notice. The root is oblong, of the thickness of a man's little finger, of an irregularly protuberant surface, of a reddish brown colour on the outside, and white within. Its texture is fibrous, its taste extremely bitter; it descends obliquely into the ground, and is furnished with a great number of large fibres. From this rise five or six leaves, each on its separate pedicle; the pedicles are five inches long, round, and reddish; the leaves at first are of a kind of triangular figure, and only undulated at the edges, but afterwards they become more deeply sinuated; it bears a multitude of flowers, is thick and juicy, and when mature the seeds are white, roundish, and pointed.

The Sugar Cane, the root of which is thick and fibrous, rises to ten feet high or more; the stalk is round, jointed, and three or four inches thick; the joints are three or four inches apart; when the soil is rich, rather more; before it is ripe, the colour is green, but, as it ripens, grows yellow, and sends out a flower something like the reed at the top; the leaves stand singly at the joints,

joints, are three feet long, very narrow, and end in a point; the stalk is full, of a whitish and very pleasant juice; the use of which, and of the rest of the plant, I have before described. It is useful in every part.

The Tamarind Tree is very common in Jamaica; it rises from a strong wide-spreading root to the height of twenty-five feet, and the branches are very thick and spreading; the trunk is often so thick that two men can scarcely fathom it; its bark is of a greyish brown; the wood firm and reddish; the leaves are long and pinate; the flowers stand in clusters, and are of a pale rose colour; the fruit is like a bean-pod in shape and size, and has three or four protuberances, where the seeds lie; its outer rind is hardish, thick, and brown; its inner rind tender and greenish; the space between these contains a thick blackish pulpy matter mixed with fibres. It is a very fine acid, and good in fevers. This fruit is put into small kegs filled with the juice of the sugar cane three parts boiled, and in this state sent home.

The Bananas are of the same kind as the plantain, but not eaten till ripe; and then are of a sweeter and more luscious taste than the other. From the juice of them may be made good vinegar.

The

The Cassada or Cassava Root is used instead of bread; the plant grows to about four or five feet in height, and is much cultivated; the juice expressed from the root (which is about the thickness of a man's wrist) to prepare it for bread, is poisonous, as well as the root eaten with its juice. Yet this juice may be boiled over the fire till a great part is evaporated; and the remainder, if it be far evaporated, and set by to ferment, will be sweet, and serve in the place of honey; if less evaporated, and set by to ferment, it will make a very good and wholesome vinegar.

The Yams are something of the potatoe kind, growing chiefly in the mountains in odd shapes, under-ground, sometimes as thick and long as a man's leg; these are good boiled or baked, and very mealy.

The Indian Jasmine grows to the height of six feet, is strong, and well branched; the leaves grow in pairs, are broad in the middle, end in a narrow point, are of a shining green colour, and are perfectly smooth. The flowers are large and white, of a fine fragrant scent, and stand generally three or five in a cluster. The fruit is a small black berry, containing one seed.

Guinea Pepper has an oblong, slender, and fibrous root; it grows to the height of four feet,

feet, is much branched, and the leaves are not quite so large as those of an hazle. The flowers rise from the wings of the leaves, are of a white or yellowish colour, and the fruit is a berry without any pulp; some are in shape like a barberry, some like a flat peach-husk, and others are much in the form of a cylinder; the variety, in short, both in size and shape, is very great. The seeds are particularly pungent. Of the large peppers they make what is called the pepper vinegar, which is much in esteem, as is also the Cayenne.

The Cocoa is about the size of a common potatoe, but shaped like an egg; the outward husk is hard and stringy; the core or kernel is eaten boiled or roasted, and in taste somewhat resembles a potatoe.

The sweet Potatoes are found almost all over the island, and are much in esteem; the stalks and leaves run spreading along the ground like the strawberry; the leaf in shape is something like that of the ivy, smooth, and rather larger; it bears a white flower.

There are many sorts of Pease and Beans natural to the island; the kind in the garden belonging the estate on which I lived, grew much after the manner of our kidney-beans; the leaf very similar, the flower quite
 L white.

white. The bean called Barrowby grows upon bushes to the height of seven or eight feet; it yields a yellow flower, after which comes a small pod that contains the beans. The Sugar Beans are planted at the foot of trees, mount up like ivy, and yield an amazing increase.

The Indigo Plant, as described by the Abbé Raynal, is a straight and rather bushy plant; from its root arises a ligneous brittle stem, of the height of two feet, branching from the beginning, white on the inside, and covered with a greyish bark. The leaves are alternate, composed of several small leaves, disposed in two rows along a common costa, which is terminated by a single folium, and furnished at its basis with two small membranes which are called *stipulae*. At the extremity of each branch arise clusters of reddish papilionaceous flowers, rather small, and composed of a number of petals; the stamina to the number of six, and the pistil, surmounted with a single style, are arranged as they mostly are in herbaceous flowers; the pistil is changed into a small rounded pod, slightly curved, one inch in length, and a line and a half in breadth, full of cylindrical, shining, and brownish seeds.

This plant requires a light soil, well tilled, and never deluged with water; for this reason

son spots are preferred which are sloping, because this position preserves the indigo plant from the stagnation of the rain, which might destroy it. Low and flat grounds, with channels to draw off the water, might also be employed for this culture, and if care be taken only to plant them after the rainy season. The seed is sown in little furrows made by the hoe, two or three inches in depth, and at the distance of a foot from each other, and in a straight line, taking care to weed it. Moisture causes this plant to shoot above the surface in three or four days; it is ripe at the end of two months. When it begins to flower, it is cut with pruning-knives, and again at the end of every six weeks, if the weather be rainy. It lasts about two years, after which term it degenerates; it is then taken up and planted again.

It is distinguished into several species, of which only two are cultivated, the true indigo, the sort we are speaking of, and the bastard indigo, which differs from the former, in having a much higher, more woody, and more durable stem, in having its foliola longer and narrower, its pods more curved, and its seeds black. Though the first be sold at a higher price, it is usually advantageous to cultivate the other, because it is not so frequently renewed, is heavier, and yields

more leaves, the produce of which however is less from an equal quantity; the first will grow in many different soils, the second succeeds best in those that are most exposed to rain; both when young are liable to be burnt by the sun, or choaked by the web of an insect, and sometimes the leaves are devoured in twenty-four hours by caterpillars.

Care should be taken in gathering it in, that the valuable farina of the leaves should not be shaken off; when gathered, it is thrown into a steeping-vat, (a large tub filled with water); here it has done fermenting in twenty-four hours; a cock is then turned to let the water into the pounding tub; the first is then cleaned out, that fresh plants may be thrown in.

The water now is found to be impregnated with a very subtle earth, which alone constitutes the blue substance we want, which must be separated from the useless salt of the plant, because this makes the dregs swim on the surface. To effect this, the water is forcibly agitated with wooden buckets full of holes, and fixed to a long handle. This part of the process requires great precaution: If this agitation be discontinued too soon, the part that is used in dying, not being sufficiently separated from the salt, would be lost; if, on the contrary,
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it were to be agitated too long after the complete separation, the parts would again unite, and the salt reacting on the dregs, would alter its colour, and make what is called burnt indigo. When they perceive, by taking a little into a clean vessel, the coloured particles collect, they leave off stirring, to allow time for it to settle to the bottom till the water is clear; holes made in the tub are opened gradually, at different heights, and the water let out.

The blue dregs remaining at the bottom having acquired the consistence of a thick muddy liquid, cocks are then opened, which draw it off from the settler. After it is still more cleared of much superfluous water in this third and last tub, it is drained into sacks, from whence, when water no longer filters through the cloth, this matter now becomes of a thicker consistence, it is put into chests, where it entirely loses its moisture. At the end of three months the indigo is fit for sale. It is used in washing, to give a bluish colour to the linen. Painters also employ it in their water colours; and dyers cannot make a fine blue without indigo. It is sown as corn in Europe. It is very plentiful at Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Louisiana, San Domingo, and Mexico, in America.

The

The Alicada, or, as the negroes call it, Alligator Pear, is the fruit, the inside of which Sir Hans Sloane calls the vegetable marrow, and indeed it is equally good, as nutritive, and more pleasant to the taste than the finest marrow; it is as big as an orange, but more of the shape of a large pear; the stone in the inside is large and round, and the juice that proceeds from it very fit for marking linen; the outer skin is thin and smooth; it is generally cut through the middle to the stone, which comes easily out, and the eatable part is soon separated; it is said to provoke venery.

The Star-Apple grows to the height of the quince tree; the fruit is very large, but thick, and so covered with leaves as scarcely to be seen.

The Mammee Tree is very general, the fruit of a deep red, which contains a rough flat long stone.

The Genap bears a fruit about the size of a magnum bonum plumb; when the outside rind, which is smooth and green, is taken off, nothing in the world can be more delicious than the pulpy juice of this fruit; the inside is of a rich purple colour.

The Hog Plumb is a native of the island, grows in the fences as the flocks with us, is
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not unpleasant to the taste, and about the size of an ordinary plumb.

The Cabbage Tree, so called from its producing a vegetable in all respects like our cabbage, grows to a vast height in the mountains; the stem is sometimes two hundred and seventy feet high; like the coconut tree, it has no branches but at the top, where they sprout to the length of about twelve or fourteen feet, covered with small long leaves, in such regular order, that they appear at a distance as if but one leaf; in the middle of these branches grows the fruit, as big as a man's leg, as white as milk, and very sweet, exactly like our cabbage. The tree is generally cut down for the sake of getting the fruit; and if it were not, it would immediately decay. This tree also bears little twigs between the cabbage and the branches, whence shoot out little berries, which are good hog-meat; the body of the tree is full of rings, at half a foot distance from each other.

Of Ginger, the root is tuberous and knotty, the thickness of a man's finger, rather flat, spreads out diversely, and of an extremely acrid and fiery taste; the plant rises about ten inches high, and about the same thickness as the root; it is covered with green *squama* resembling rudiments of leaves,

leaves, and is terminated by a kind of oval spike. It is very beautiful, and composed of scales of a fine yellow and bright scarlet colour, or else of a fine shining green, variegated with white; from the bosom of these scales the flowers come forth; they are of a mixed reddish and whitish colour, are variegated with yellow spots, small, and of short continuance.

The stalks on which the flowers are produced have no perfect leaves on them; but besides these there arise also other stalks, if they may be so called; these are composed of the bases of multitude of leaves surrounding one another, and grow to two feet or more in height; the leaves separate at their tops, and hang down loose; they are about six or eight inches long, and an inch or more broad, soft to the touch, pointed at the extremities, and are of a bright green colour. The roots are preserved, or sent over in their crude state; it is an excellent stomachic, and is peculiarly pleasant to the taste when preserved; it is also good when grated into cane juice, just before it is thrown out of the coppers for sugar.

The Button Tree has a root large and spreading, grows thirty feet high, and its trunk is often a foot in diameter; the bark is tolerably smooth, and of a pale grey colour;

four; the branches are numerous and spreading; the leaves stand in pairs, have short pedicles, are of an oval figure, broadest at the extremity, somewhat narrow for their length, are an inch and a half long, and about three quarters of an inch broad, smooth, and of a pale yellowish green; the leaves towards the extremities of the branches differ from these, in that they are narrow-pointed; these extremities are divided into several twigs, on which stand oval clusters of flowers, which are small and red.

Mahogany, well known for its beauty and use in domestic furniture, is frequently found in this island; it is a species of cedar, of a very large size, so as to be cut into planks of six feet in breadth.

The Mangle Tree, or Manglier, grows along the banks of rivers; bunches of filaments part from its flexible branches, and hang to the earth, where they take root, and grow into new trees,—which again multiply; the feet of these afford an excellent nursery to various kinds of shell-fish.

Of the Cashew Tree, the nut is very well known with us, and the shell contains a vast quantity of oil of a burning nature; the kernel is good when freed from the oil, either raw or roasted; these trees grow in great abundance, to a considerable height,

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and are very ramous and spreading; the blossom is small, and produces an apple shaped like a pear, at the end of which is a nut in the shape of a kidney; there are two sorts of trees, the male bears a beautiful red apple when ripe, and the female a yellow one; both are of a delicious flavour, the former more acid than the latter, which is exquisitely sweet; the Creoles use them in punch; they are of a very astringent nature, and grow naturally in Jamaica; the apples are preserved and sent home, and are common in London.

The Pimento Tree, which bears the Jamaica pepper, or allspice, grows to more than thirty feet high, straight, not thick, and covered with a grey shining bark; it branches out much, and the leaves are of a bright green, not unlike in shape to the bay leaves; it bears berries, which change from green to a smooth black; they are taken unripe, and dried in the sun. This tree springs out of the mountains.

Of the Manchioneal Tree, the wood is much esteemed for cabinet-work, being very durable, taking a fine polish, and, it is said, is not liable to be eaten by worms. This tree abounds with a milky caustic juice; before it is cut down they make fires round the trunk to burn out the juice, otherwise

otherwise those who cut it would be in danger of losing their sight by its flying into their eyes; for should the juice touch the skin, blisters immediately follow; and if it falls on linen, it turns black, and washes into holes. The like danger to the eyes is to be dreaded from the saw-dust, to prevent which the workmen cover their faces with fine lawn. This tree produces a fruit something like a golden pippin, which if ignorantly eaten inflames the mouth and throat to a great degree, and is very dangerous to the stomach unless timely remedies are instantly applied; the rain washing the wood and leaves of this tree makes it dangerous to stand under, the very beasts by instinct avoiding it.

The Logwood runs along a great tract of earth, amongst the other trees of the forest; as does also what we call the Supple Jack.

The Phyfic Nut grows upon a small tree not three yards high, and contains a kernel quite white. Several of them are found in the cavities of a black shell or pod, and are of a purgative quality. From these the famous castor oil is extracted.

The Cacao Tree, the nut of which is used for making chocolate, is about a foot and a half thick; it grows about eight feet high; the leaf is shaped like that of the plumb-

tree, but larger; the branches are large and spreading; and the nuts, which hang regularly amongst the branches by a tough limber stalk, are about the bigness of a man's two fists; there are two crops a-year. The cod is about half an inch thick, neither springy nor woody, but brittle, and something harder than the rind of a lemon, like which the grain is coarse and unequal; they are of a dark green colour, which changes to a bright yellow, and as they ripen, becomes red; they mature gradually, and are laid in heaps to sweat, when the planters burst the shell with their hands, and take out the nuts, which lie in rows like grains of maize, an hundred in a cod, and these are the only substance contained in it; they are spread on mats to dry, and will keep well, having a tough skin and much oil, whereby they are preserved from salt water; it bears from the nut after having been planted four or five years, but it must as much as possible be sheltered from the sun, by interspersing rows of plantain and other shady trees.

The Mangroves grow close by the sea-side, as willows by our rivers, but are umbrageous and of a beautiful foliage; these trees are low, and their roots have some resemblance to the human form, from whence
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their name; in many parts they line the shore, and have a beautiful effect from their verdant appearance; the negroes are employed to cut them half way under water.

The Cotton Plant, on which the cotton is found, rises to the height of six or seven feet; the leaf is something like that of a currant; the flower is pale, tinged with purple, which leaves behind it a black pod containing the cotton, which is pulled by the negroes, the seed being beaten out of it, in some places with sticks, but in a much readier way by an engine, through which the seeds fall; it is then put into bags, after the manner of hops, and sent home; many of the white Creoles have no other plantations than these, which are easily conducted and at little expence.

There is much Brafileta Wood in the island; and the Lignum Vitæ, the gum of which is of such use in medicine, also thrives here.

The Guavas grow upon a low tree, and are very like a small pear.

The Sapadillo is about the size of a bergamot pear, growing upon a pretty high tree; when first gathered it is white and clammy, but grows sweet and as clear as spring-water if laid by for two or three days, and the fruit which was before hard becomes
soft

soft and luscious. Within are found two or three black stones about the size of a pumpkin seed.

The Ananas, or Pine Apples, abound every where, but must be planted at different times of the year to bring about a constant succession; a particular sort are ripe when quite black, and are reckoned to have the finest flavour, being most in esteem; this is the Ripley Pine: A second sort is the Buckara, or White People's Pine: And a third sort, called the Negro Pine, which is worst of all. They are all known by their husks.

The Musk-Melons are in great plenty and perfection, as are also the Water-Melons, and need little or no cultivation; the latter have not much flavour, but are colder than a turnip, waterish, and full of black seeds, which the mulattoes often stick on their faces by way of ornament. The whole island abounds with the finest antiscorbutics in the world; there is a small plant which, when gathered and decocted, is similar in taste, and answers all the purposes of liquorice. Wild Cucumbers, about the size of our guerkins, are very abundant, as are also Pumpkins and various other fruit.

The Penguins are planted for fences, and are at first sight often mistaken for pine apple suckers, but they are larger, much longer, and

and fortified with tremendous prickles ; the fruit, which is very indifferent, grows up to the top from a stalk that springs from the middle of the plant, and is not above the size of a pullet's egg.

A plant grows here to the height of ten or twelve feet, without either branch or leaf, covered from top to bottom with sharp prickles, in tufts ; it is as thick as a man's thigh when at full growth, spreads much, and serves for a fence ; it has variety of names, is spongy and full of juice, the outside a smooth green, but it is ugly and dangerous on account of the prickles.

Such are the things my short residence here afforded me an opportunity of learning ; but to describe every particular of the island of Jamaica, to give a minute detail of its commercial consequence to this country, and of its natural and artificial curiosities, would require the leisure of a life more prosperous than my own, and a volume much larger than the one I now present to the public.

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